

Name: Craig Kahler
Contact Phone: 517-896-5080 or 669-8194

Preferred Date: September 21 (I am out of town on business from 9/22 through 9/27. Thank you for your consideration).

Why are you running for DeWitt's School Board?

- I am a parent interested in assuring the students obtain the best educational opportunities possible and have a long-term vested interest in achieving that goal
- I have nearly 25 years of experience working with school districts and am confident I have and will continue to provide fellow Board members, Administrators, Staff and the Community with valuable insights into school business and finance
- I believe my experience and commitment to this purpose add value to the District
- I am interested in continuing my service that started two years ago.

What do you feel qualifies you to be on the School Board?

- Record of commitment to improving education.
- Nearly 25 years working in or with school districts.
- 13 years as a school business official (Rochester and Clarkston schools).
- Intimate understanding of school finance, negotiations, Board and Administrative roles, school design and construction, legal issues pertaining to school operations.
- Extensive experience serving school districts as a trusted advisor for accounting, finance, construction, facility design and capital needs.
- I am an objective listener, not prone to over-reaction and tend to make decisions based on facts and input from staff, community members and outside experts.
- Parent of two school age children.

What should be the mission of our public schools and, in your view, what is the school board's role in advancing that mission?

- Ensuring that DeWitt Public Schools is providing the highest quality education to the students of our Community
- Provide a well-rounded educational experience focused in academics and enhanced through extra- and co-curricular activities including, but not limited to, the fine and performing arts, athletics, clubs and cultural events.
- Board role?
 - Hire and support the Superintendent who possesses the vision and passion to implement programs that achieve these goals.
 - Establish policy to ensure programs and services adhere to the Community's values and legal parameters.
 - Approve budgets that allocate resources sufficient to achieve these goals, within the resources available to the District.

- Foster a culture that empowers educators to successfully deliver a challenging and diverse curriculum and, in the process, challenge themselves to achieve beyond their potential.
- Be visible and accessible to staff and community members to discuss issues.

Please provide us with a brief bio including occupation, family, education, community involvement and other interests.

Current occupation: Investment Banker, **Fifth Third Securities, Inc.**, East Lansing – primary focus K-12 education financing serving entire State of Michigan – 2007-present

Past occupations: Auditor, **Plante & Moran**, 1985-88 focusing on schools and municipalities
 Budget Supervisor/Controller – **Rochester Community Schools** – 1988-1995
 Director of Business Services – **Clarkston Community Schools** – 1995-2001
 Director of Business Development – **French Associates**, Rochester, MI – 2001-03 (K-12 architecture)
 Investment Banker – **UBS Securities** – Lansing – 2003-2007 (K-12 capital financing)

Family Married to Linda for nearly 20 years, two children, Audrey (9th grade) and Adam (4th grade)

Education: BA in Accounting, Hillsdale College, 1985

Community: **DeWitt Public Schools Board of Education** – 2007-present
Catholic Community of St Jude – Finance Committee – 2007-present
DeWitt Band Boosters

Past Community: Guild Member, **Greater Lansing Ballet Company**
 President, Board of Directors and Member, **Clarkston Area Optimist Club**
 Board of Directors, **Clarkston Foundation**
 Chair, **Clarkston Foundation Golf Outing**
 President and Treasurer, **Waldon Creek Homeowner's Association**
 Member, Board of Directors, **Rochester Kiwanis Club** (Co-Chair of annual Music In The Park Concert Series)

Professional Affil: Member, **Michigan School Business Officials** (since 1988) – conference/workshop presenter
 Member, **Michigan Association of School Administrators** (Associate member since 2001) - conference presenter
 Member, **Association of School Business Officials** (since 1997)

Other interests: Running, Golf, Cycling, Triathlons, any family activity